

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI)

1. SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE XIV PCI PARTY CONGRESS IN MARCH, THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING SPECULATION, PARTICULARLY IN ITALY, CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF BERLINGUER'S EFFORTS TO RESHAPE THE PARTY. VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT DIFFER AND DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF THE INNOVATIONS IN THE PARTY AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

2. THUS, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF THE (A) EXTENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CHANGES INSTITUTED BY BERLINGUER, (B) NEAR AND LONGER TERM PROSPECTS FOR BERLINGUER'S HOLD ON THE PARTY AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGES, AND (C) IMPLICATIONS AS SEEN FROM ROME OF THE CHANGES FOR PCI ROLE IN ITALY. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT CONFINE ITS ANALYSIS TO THESE POINTS ALONE AND SHOULD INCLUDE AS WELL ANY OTHER POINTS PERTINENT TO THIS QUESTION. INGERSOLL

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